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textile industry of Silesia put her, moreover, at a disadvantage in competition for the export trade with the other German states. Dr. Friedrich emphasizes in this connection a very interesting fact growing out of the rapidly declining exports from Silesia to the United States. Within the period 1889-1900 there was a decrease in business with the United States from \$1,296,380 to \$350,733, to be partially ascribed to the tariff. Low wages seemed not to determine competitive ability as between the high-waged United States and the notably low-waged Silesia. Instead of considering the low wages an advantage to Silesia, as many have assumed, Dr. Friedrich sees in them a hindrance to technical and economic progress.

Silesia occupies the second place in the German sugar industry. The commercial treaties have had little influence in this field. During the period 1889-1900, the sugar development has been in striking contrast technically to the textile development, the number of factories increasing only slightly, their output however being doubled.

On the whole, then, it may be maintained that Silesia has benefited in two directions under the Caprivi commercial policy—(1) directly, due to favorable tariff rates; (2) indirectly, through the certainty introduced by the treaties. Dr. Friedrich's investigation becomes an argument for the continuance and improvement of the present policy.

J. H. C.

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*Die wirtschaftliche Entwicklung des Königreichs Württemberg mit besonderer Berücksichtigung der Handelsverträge.* By DR. ALBERT BARTENS. Frankfort a. M.: E. Schnapper, 1901. 8vo, pp. viii+120.

*Der Haushalt der Stadt Hildesheim, am Ende des 14. und in der ersten Hälfte des 15. Jahrhunderts.* By PAUL HUBER. Leipzig, 1901. 8vo, pp. vi+148.

THE recent congressional elections in this country and the controversy over tariff revision, especially as seen in the states of the Northwest, make the modest brochure of Dr. Albert Bartens of unusual interest. The story he tells is of the trade and economic conditions in a minor state of a great empire, affected by the efforts of the latter to build up a world trade and an extensive industry. There is just enough similarity in the relations of the United States to Canada as compared with those

existing between Württemberg and the states of Italy, Switzerland, and Belgium to draw forth the statement made at the beginning of this review. In the United States freedom of trade exists between the states and the only restriction upon the movement of commodities is at the boundaries between them and their neighbors. Württemberg without any particular authority over the German reciprocity treaties is compelled to accept their more or less disturbing influences with protest, but not action. Of the effects of these German treaties Dr. Bartens writes in a monograph of some hundred pages.

The monograph is one of a series prepared by the students of the political science seminar at the University of Freiburg, under the direction of Professor Fuchs. A similar investigation has been carried on by Leo Berkholz in Alsace-Lorraine, the two covering a very considerable portion of the southern part of Germany.

In Germany for a quarter of a century a fight has been waged on the question of commercial treaties. So long has the battle been waged that in many instances the effects are lost sight of and the whole question becomes a contest between parties. In the days of Bismarck high tariffs were the rule, but they were followed by a series of reciprocity treaties to encourage exports. Germany found she could not get markets with her neighbors unless she made concessions, and hence since 1892 there have been negotiated a number of excellent treaties, especially with the states of middle Europe. The principle of these treaties was to secure a wider foreign market by admitting raw materials, especially food stuffs, free or at a low tariff. The treaties have not been altogether satisfactory to the industrials and entirely objectionable to the agriculturists. Meanwhile Dr. Bartens asks the specific question what are the results of these trade treaties upon the industries of Germany. He has attempted, and successfully, to answer the question so far as the state of Württemberg is concerned.

The kingdom of Württemberg occupies an area of 19,517 qkm. in southern Germany. On this area live 2,070,662 people, engaged in agriculture and small manufacturing. Since 1882 the population has declined from  $4\frac{1}{3}$  per cent. to 4 per cent. in 1895 of the empire's population. In the same time the agricultural population of the kingdom has fallen off 3.7 per cent. In the field of trade the exports to Switzerland from 1889-98 fell from 79.87 per cent. to 75.25 per cent., while the exports to Italy declined from 4.49 to 3.06 per cent. The fall in imports was still greater from Austria. In the same period

mentioned above the decline was 22 per cent. There was also a small falling off in the imports from Belgium.

The author examines carefully the various industries and trades carried on in Württemberg and traces in each case the effects upon trade. In many instances where the treaties permitted foreign goods to enter there was a noticeable tendency toward concentration of the industry. In fact there is indicated the possibility of menace to the small industries through the introduction of reciprocity treaties. As Germany enters the world's market more and more through the use of reciprocity treaties and greater freedom of trade she must pass to the factory system, and the transition is likely to be one of great suffering. The monograph points out the difficulty of securing just treatment of small industries and interstate commerce through the medium of a general tariff treaty.

In the closing paragraph the writer says :

The hardest battle will be and will continue to be in regard to the concentration of our commercial policy. The modern, many-sided economic life makes impossible a policy which treats all production in the same way. The development of individual groups is always bound up with the welfare and economic conditions of others even though they may be at war with each other. The problem of German economic policy is to strengthen those members on whom the weight of the political and social life rests, even though they may not contribute in an equal degree.

The interest in Dr. Paul Huber's book lies in the fact that the organization and centralization of the finances of the great states were preceded by the methods of the cities and towns in the Middle Ages. This fact is clearly indicated in the book under review, and the students of economic history owe the author many thanks for the work he has done in reducing the early financial methods of this city to its present compass. The source of the book is found in the more extended and elaborate volumes of R. Doebner's *Urkundenbuch der Stadt Hildesheim, Im Auftrage des Stadt-Magistrats herausgegeben* (1893 and 1896). The chapters in Dr. Huber's book are designated as "Introduction," "Documents and Materials," "Money System," "Financial Administration," "Miscellaneous Financial Interests," "Receipts, Expenses, and Debts," and "Credit."

The city of Hildesheim, now a town of about 40,000 inhabitants, had its origin in the bishop's cathedral. The growth of the bishop's household, the presence of a village, the building of walls and gates made

in time a place of some importance. The origin divided the city into different parts that were completely separated by walls and which complicated the questions of representation in the town council and matters of taxation.

The economic conditions of that day forced the towns and cities to provide a money. Such wholesale creation of coins by different towns and principalities retarded commerce and made it difficult to maintain standards of fineness. The basis of the money coined in Hildesheim was the pound, and the pfennig had then a much higher value than it has today. There, however, took place a very marked decline in the value of this coin. The degeneration of coins in use was so great that a convention was called in 1382 by the cities of Hildesheim, Braunschweig, Hannover and a fourth city to maintain the silver mark 94 per cent. fine, but the convention was not able to maintain the coin at this point, for fifty years later it is found to be but 37 per cent. fine. The gulden then comes to be the money of account, but an effort was made in 1439 to reorganize the coinage and a league formed to maintain the new mark. This is but a sample of the interesting points taken up in the course of the book.

In the administration of the city an elaborate system of representation had been created by which it was possible for the various interests in the city to have a share in its affairs. The "*Rat*" or council was made up of three groups that sat at different periods. The author goes into considerable detail concerning the relations of officers to the council and the means used to guard the interests of the city. In the recital of the facts there is a noticeable movement toward centralization of administration as the city grows older.

The income of the city came from many sources. In the year 1381 the brick-kilns belonging to the city made 129,000 brick and tiles with a resulting small profit. The grinding mills were much more successful. From the stalls, rents of land, coinage of money and a variety of taxes the city secured other income. The expenditures were numerous, including salaries of officials, the payment of the watch, wages of servants and builders, the purchase of materials, the cost of war, repairs on mills and kilns, gifts to the bishop and expenses of militia. These are items which probably will be included in the budget of the future city.

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